



Theydon Bois Parish Council

Parish Office, The Village Hall, Coppice Row,
Theydon Bois, Essex CM16 7ER

Acting Clerk to the Council: Mrs Elizabeth Thomas

Minutes of the Parish Council held at The Village Hall at 8.00pm on Thursday 28th September 2017

Councillors Present: Cllrs Philip (Chair), Gooch, Howard, Burn, Phillips, PurkissHannibal, Wood & Crook

Apologies: Cllr Withers

Officers Present: Elizabeth Thomas (Acting Parish Clerk and RFO)

547. Apologies for Absence
Cllr Withers

548. To discuss and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on July 27th 2017
Signed as a true record

549. Declarations of Interest (existence and nature) with regard to items on the agenda. Members of the Council are subject to the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 (SI.2007/1159)(The Revised Code)
None

550. Public Participation Session related to items on the agenda
None

551. Correspondence – Clerks Report

- Dukes Avenue: we have had sight of a letter to residents on that street, regarding the drainage situation related to the ditch along the back of the avenue.
- TBAG wrote a letter to Sajid Javid explaining objections to building in the Green Belt, it has been circulated.
- St Mary's Maintenance Grant – we have had a letter in as per last year to request this. We have prepared £750 again as per last year as it is incorporated in the budget – please let us have comments.
- There is social media training run by EFDC on October 24 if anyone would like to go – let us know.
- Code of conduct training October 2 from 6-9pm at EFDC – let us know if you want to go.
- PKF Littlejohn returns have been dealt with and the notice to that effect is up to show the public.
- Christmas Fayre preps are well under way and we have 4 stalls secured now.
- C P R E Essex Branch AGM is on Saturday 7 October 2017 at Epping Forest District Museum
- EALC compiling a list of local constituted groups for Residents' or Housing Associations. If you know any, let us know.
- RCCE Village Halls & Community Buildings Conference: >14th October 2017, Chignalls & Mashbury Village Hall 9.30- 3.
- Citizen of the year voting in progress. Categories: Citizen, Young Citizen & Team. Closing Date November 24.
- Activities are planned locally for kids at half term, sports, arts and crafts, bug-hunting and parties. EFDC are the contact.

- Anti-fly-tipping: Crime Not To Care campaign is in progress, run by EFDC, ECC, Keep Britain Tidy and others. There are a million illegal dumping incidents in England every year - and a million pounds worth of taxpayers money spent on the problem every year in Essex – they want those who have rubbish to get rid of to do it responsibly. This includes people who use contractors: if they dump rubbish you give them you can still be fined for illegal waste dumping. Details online.
- Stay Well This Winter: roadshow in the district this autumn offering talks, tips and tutorials to help everyone, particularly seniors, through the colder months. The events are at Waltham Abbey Town Hall on Tuesday October 3; Theydon Bois Village Hall on Wednesday October 25 and Roding Hall, Buckhurst Hill on Friday November 10. All the sessions run from 10am-2pm. Book via EFDC
- Mobile libraries consultation – ECC want to foster a more streamlined service and are welcoming contributions to their survey – deadline is November 6 and the details have been circulated to all.
- Butler and Stagg have three staff climbing the Three Peaks in aid of the PAT charity: please support if you can.
- Macmillan stall on September 29 at Butler & Stagg: all are welcome, please support if you can.

552. Finance and General Purposes Committee Finance and General Purposes Committee

552.1 Update on Finance & General Purposes matters since the last Meeting:

PKF Littlejohn have completed audit and we have received the report. New notice board is on the way.

552.2 To approve the payments made since last meeting: Payments approved. Noted that the grant to St Mary's Church is specifically budgeted for and is approved.

552.3 HMRC: The ongoing problem is being tackled and we are 90% there. We have followed their advice, cleared most of the problems and are in contact with them – we currently await a response from them.

552.4 Playground At Theydon update: They have now collected £75,000 so they are two thirds of the way to their target. They are to receive a £5k grant from EFDC and an additional £1k very soon.

553. Planning Committee

Cllr Gooch commented:

- **Neighbourhood Plan:** Cllrs Gooch and Burn to meet Sarah Sapsford from RCCE on October 5 to discuss this and hopefully move it forward.
- Many contentious applications are going to committee. Houses are getting bigger, gardens are disappearing as car parking is a premium. This changes the visual amenity of the street scene. Planning officers from EFDC should take into account conditions that deal with soft landscaping.
- **Local Plan:** Cllr Philip commented: EFDC have been working with the MP. Representations made that the consultation was flawed, there will be strong representations made about this. The Local Plan will be submitted to the inspectorate on March 31 2018; it is not ideal but it will be satisfactory. The next three months will be spent getting the Local Plan to this stage is a top priority. It is an intense period and updates will be issued. EFDC have involved residents and councillors more than Harlow has. An infrastructure plan is under way and we are making sure we get good quality design. Green Belt: we can't avoid using some of that across the board, but there will be additional green belt policies.
- **Cabinet** have reported that there will be a Compliance Officer starting at EFDC in April and this will be very proactive re. applications and for advising architects and developers. Planning Committees can go to them for advice.

554. Highways, Cemetery and Environment Committee

Cllr Purkiss commented:

- **Good news:** there is a lovely new road surface outside Village Hall up to the speed camera. Tesco bollards and railings have also been painted, and we are trying to contact Tesco to enhance the exterior of the store itself.
- **Tree wardens:** there has been a meeting with Cllr Purkiss – interesting discussion.
- **Recycling:** problems have been reported re. the changes and closures at the recycling centres in Waltham Abbey and Luxborough Lane as they don't take porcelain and there are huge queues at the tips. A caravan was also dumped under the motorway bridge recently.

- **Parking on the Abridge Road:** the problem goes on. Essex Police are in touch with NEPP for temporary restrictions and we will support this. Parking is now on both sides of the road and parking officers are in force there.
- **Traffic on Loughton Lane near Davenant School:** great concern over this as people are now doing three point turns in the road. The school are aware of the problem. The area is not technically in TB parish but the road connects with us so we would experience the effects of any incident and we empathise with everyone who is worried. Chris Whitbread: I have had complaints about this too, and have referred them to ECC Highways Panel – I will follow it up. Cllr Wood has attempted to contact Loughton Town Council about the issue.

555. **Community Liaison Committee**

Cllr Howard commented:

- **Seniors “Christmas Doo”:** entertainment being organised, party will take place December 1. We have discussed changing the name of the seniors events to attract more people – all suggestions welcome! The autumn event has been shelved which leaves more money to hold a bigger event at Christmas. Entertainer is provisionally booked and we have an option on the EFCT minibus – Office to follow up.
- **Christmas Market:** Can we light the trees on the Shopping parade – Cllr Purkiss said this will be fine as they will be pollarded in late October. To revisit after that time.
- **Christmas Tree:** we would like a bigger tree this year – residents want to start a collection to contribute to this and the lighting thereof – Council very happy to sanction this. Cllr Philip & Chris Whitbread to discuss using power from the Zebra Crossing.
- **Christmas Fayre:** 4 stalls already reserved. Reindeer booked and we have a deal on snow globe and tea cup ride.
- **Charity:** Playground at Theydon – Agreed.
- **Town Twinning:** we had an email from a lady in a small village in northern France, population 3k, looking to twin with a similar village in the UK. They are accessible from Southend Airport. Council agreed this was a lovely idea and well worth exploring, especially as Epping has a very positive experience twinning with Eppingen. Cllr Philip to take this forward.
- **Security & Crime:** Tesco Theydon Bois has been broken into 4 times in succession, and the ATM smashed: CCTV showed only people in hoodies. All agree crime is increasing in the village – Cllr Phillips described two recent incidents of car crime in his street alone. We have no police presence as such, many people would report crime online, and the nearest police station is Loughton: Cllr Gooch has spoken to residents who would be willing to pay extra rates to get that. Other places use security companies who liaise with the police if need be, and act as a visual deterrent even if they do not have powers of arrest. Cllr Philip suggested that it might be better if we could get someone to be a special constable, who have full police powers. They cost £2.5k to train then £250 per year to engage. Agreed to look into getting someone from the village to train as a special – we will advertise via posters and parish news, and Cllr Philip will write to the PCC to state this intention and ask for further direction on what to do next, and circulate slides and information from his recent meeting with the police commissioner.

556. **Any Other Urgent Business for Report (without decision)**

- None.

557. **Public Participation related to items not on the agenda**

- **Drainage ditch behind Dukes Avenue:** we have had sight of a letter to residents asking them not to throw rubbish here. The area is wooded and it can be hard to tell what is discarded trimmings and what is natural breakage. The banks of the stream are very unstable however – corroborated by a U3A member who went there with a study group recently and found it dangerous. Cllr Philip said that this is ECC area and also part of the Oak Walk, overseen by City of London, so there may be a contretemps over who has most sway here. Thames Water not an ownership issue here. We have told Countrycare about it but they have no funding for it.
- **Parking on Abridge Road:** Today there were 64 cars on the left hand kerb and 11 on the verge on the right. Cllr Philip has spoken about this to the Essex Police Chief Inspector on Tuesday at EFDC and the relevant EFDC Portfolio Holder. Police

have sent officers and are in consultation with NEPP, ticketing is in full swing there – residents are also investigating possibility of private prosecution.

558. Following Agenda items will exclude Public and Press

- Staff matters – appointment of new Clerk

Councillor Philip closed the meeting at 9.20 pm

**Elizabeth Thomas
Acting Clerk to the Council**

**Councillor John Philip
Chair of the Council**